

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 717  
By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Mary Frances Blair Sharkey on the celebration of her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Mary Frances Blair Sharkey will celebrate her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on June 25, 1925, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, when she was five years old, Mary's mother passed away, and she was raised by her grandmother; and

WHEREAS, growing up on a farm, Mary Frances Blair Sharkey graduated from high school despite having to work many long hours in the fields and suffering from asthma; and

WHEREAS, for many years, Mary Frances Blair Sharkey served with acumen and alacrity as a maid, a cashier and manager of Welles Department Store, a manager at RCA, and a department supervisor at Sears, in which positions she earned the respect of her peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of her work and her dedication to her duties; and

WHEREAS, in her early twenties, Mary was joined in marriage with George Blair, Jr., and the couple's union was blessed with six children who have gone on to succeed in various professions; and

WHEREAS, an active and devout Christian, Mary Sharkey is a member of Hickory Hill Missionary Baptist Church, which she has faithfully served since 1937; and

WHEREAS, a humble servant, Mary Sharkey has taught Sunday school classes since 1974, and she also serves as a church missionary, a member of the Ushers' Board, a member of the Mother Board, and a member of the Senior Citizens Association; and

WHEREAS, still an active and productive member of society, Mary Frances Blair Sharkey is employed as a personal shopper and participates in various civic and community events, and she visits the sick and shut-in on a consistent basis; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Mary Frances Blair Sharkey on the celebration of her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.